

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

Claims 1–4, 6, 9, 15–17, 19–22 and 26–33 were previously and are currently pending and under consideration.

Claims 1–4, 6, 9, 15–17, 19–22 and 26–33 stand rejected.

Claims 1, 15, 17, 26, and 33 are amended herein.

No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested.

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the Interview of April 20, 2006. During the Interview Applicant and Examiner discussed clarifications in the claims including clarification of a user being able to interactively control whether to apply a change identified as being necessary for a client to interoperate with a server according to a configuration change on the server. Examiner indicated that discussed clarifications appear to overcome the rejection, pending further consideration.

REJECTIONS UNDER 35 USC §§ 102 AND 103

Claims 1–4, 6, 15–17, and 19–22 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as anticipated by Horman. Claims 9 and 22 stand rejected in further view of LaRue. Claims 16, 26–31, and 33 stand rejected in further view of Glatt. These rejections are traversed based on the following. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Horman Does Not Allow User Of Client Computer To Control Whether to Apply Configuration Change On The Client Computer

Microsoft Corporation
Application Number: 09/669,819
Attorney Docket Number: 144211.01

Claim 1 recites "transmitting a status message to a client computer, the status message including an indication that a client configuration change is called for, where the message is capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to control whether or not to apply the one client configuration change on the client computer". In contrast, as agreed at the recent Interview, Horman teaches only automatically applying changes on client computers.

At the top of column 9 (lines 1–3), Horman clearly states that the portion cited in the rejection (i.e., column 9, lines 30–45) is not interactive. More specifically, Horman states that "**steps 2 through 8 occur automatically. No manual intervention is required**" (emphasis added). Column 9, lines 30–45 are the 4th through 8th steps of the 8 steps mentioned, and therefore do not include any interactive element, and the transmitted message (scripts) cannot be "capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to initiate the one client configuration change on the client computer".

Furthermore, Horman describes its client updates as "batches", "batch scripts", etc. See column 2, lines 38–40; column 11, lines 30–35; and column 5, lines 43–48. According to the Free Online Dictionary Of Computing (www.foldoc.org), "batch processing" refers to: "<programming> A system that takes a set (a 'batch') of commands or jobs, executes them and returns the results, all without human intervention. This contrasts with an interactive system where the user's commands and the computer's responses are interleaved during a single run." This definition is consistent with Horman's teaching that no manual intervention is required to apply a change at an updated system.

Claim 15 recites "exposing a detailed listing ... where the detailed listing is configured to be used by a wizard on the one or more clients to allow users to interactively control whether to apply updates on the one or more client computers that correspond to the listing".

Claim 17 recites "transmitting a status message to the one or more client computers regarding the client configuration change, where the message is capable of being interacted with by a user of the client computer to control whether or not to apply the client configuration change on the client computer".

Claim 26 recites "displaying a list of interactively selectable client reconfiguration choices corresponding to the updated server status of the multiple server configuration settings, where the reconfiguration choices correspond to configuration changes on the client that affect interoperability with the server according to its updated settings". Claim 33 recites "at the client device, displaying a mechanism to allow a user to control whether to apply the client configuration change that is called for the server configuration change, and in response to user input, automatically making the client configuration change on the client". Although Glatt was cited as adding this feature to Horman, Horman is expressly designed to obviate the need for an operator's intervention. Therefore, the proposed modification is improper because the modification would defeat Horman's intended purpose (see MPEP 2143.01(V)). Furthermore, as agreed at the Interview, the cited portions of Glatt (Figures 4A and 4B) do not list interactively selectable choices for reconfiguring a client. Rather, the interfaces in Figures 4A and 4B are for a user to control when to synchronize a device and what applications to synchronize. They do not relate to reconfiguring a device.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 15, 17, 26, and 33 is respectfully requested.

Horman Does Not Automatically Identify A Change Of A Client Computer That Will Enable The Client Computer To Interoperate With The Reconfigured Server

Claim 1 recites "automatically identify[ing] one or more client configuration changes that, if applied on a client computer, will enable the client computer to interoperate with the server computer in accordance with the changed configuration of the server computer".

Horman is in effect an update propagation system. A "master" server (administrative control server 11) builds update scripts from a database (administrative control database 12) and pushes out the update scripts (batch scripts) to "slave" servers (e.g. administered servers 13, 14). The administrative control server 11 is not reconfigured in a way that affects its interoperability with the administered servers. The only interoperation between the administrative control server 11 and the administered servers is the actual system for pushing out update scripts. Horman does not discuss or suggest any configuration changes that affect the update interoperation between the administrative control server and the administered servers.

Claim 15 recites "automatically identify one or more client configuration changes that, if applied on a client computer, will enable the client computer to interoperate with the server computer ~~operate~~ in accordance with the changed configuration of the server computer".

Claim 17 recites "automatically identifying a client configuration change that is called for in one or more client computers connected to the server computer via a network, said client configuration change being necessitated by the change in configuration of the server computer so that the client computers can use-interoperate with the server computer as reconfigured according to the configuration change of the server computer".

Claim 26 recites "receiving a notification from the server computer that at least one of multiple server configuration settings has been updated, the server configuration settings comprising settings that affect how client computers interoperate with the server computer". Claim 33 recites "receiving a message from a server device, the message containing an indication of a server configuration change that affects the client's interoperation with the server device". Although claims 26 and 33 were rejected as obvious over Horman in view of Glatt, only Horman was cited as teaching these features of claims 26 and 33.

Withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1, 15, 17, 26, and 33 is respectfully requested.

DEPENDENT CLAIMS

The dependent claims are deemed to be patentable based on their dependence from allowable independent claims. The dependent claims are also independently patentable. For example, claim 20 recites "transmitting a user actuatable control to at least one of the one or more client computers that allows a client user to effect the client configuration change". The cited prior art combination does not discuss or suggest this feature. Withdrawal of the rejection of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the above remarks above, it is respectfully submitted that the claims are patentably distinct over the prior art and that all the rejections to the claims should be withdrawn. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is requested. Based on the foregoing, Applicant respectfully requests that the pending claims be allowed, and that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. If the Examiner believes, after this Response, that the application is not in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the Applicant's representative at the telephone number listed below.

Microsoft Corporation
Application Number: 09/669,819
Attorney Docket Number: 144211.01

PATENT

If this Response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this Response, including an extension fee that is not covered by an enclosed check please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 50-0463.

Respectfully submitted,

Microsoft Corporation

Date: May 18, 2006

By: James T. Strom

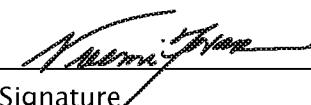
James T. Strom, 48,702
Attorney for Applicants
Direct telephone (425) 706-0362
Microsoft Corporation
One Microsoft Way
Redmond WA 98052-6399

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION
(Under 37 CFR § 1.8(a)) or ELECTRONIC FILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being electronically deposited with the USPTO via EFS-Web on the date shown below:

May 18, 2006

Date



Signature

Noemi Tovar

Printed Name

Microsoft Corporation
Application Number: 09/669,819
Attorney Docket Number: 144211.01